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General

Morocco is located in Northern Africa and borders Algeria and Western Sahara. The North Atlantic Ocean lies to its W and the Mediterranean Sea lies to its N.

The climate is Mediterranean and becomes extreme in the desert interior.

Morocco has varied topography. It is dominated by several rugged mountain ranges, divided by fertile river valleys. There are extensive lowlands on the W coast. The Sahara Desert occupies a large part of the interior of the country.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the dirham, consisting of 100 centimes.

Firing Areas

Zone Alpha.—A sector with a radius of 20 miles between the bearings of 270 and 000, centered on position 33 41'N, 8 03'W

Zone Bravo.—A sector with a radius of 20 miles between the bearings of 270 and 000, centered on position 29 53'N, 10 15'W

Zone Delta.—A sector with a radius of 20 miles between the bearings of 270 and 000, centered on position 23 35'N, 17 00'W

Zone Aerora Goulmine.—An air-to-air and air-to-surface firing range bounded by a line joining the following points:

- 28 °46.5'N 10 °48.5'W
- 29 °08.0'N 11 °28.0'W
- 29 °18.0'N 11 °06.0'W
- 29 °12.8'N 10 °56.7'W

Firing exercises are carried out in a sector with a radius of 20 miles between the bearings of 270° and 000°, centered on position 35°22'N, 4°04'W.

Firing exercises are carried out from the coast, for a distance of 2 miles seaward, from N of Melilla to Punta Tarqiat.

Government

The Kingdom of Morocco is a constitutional monarchy consisting of 49 provinces and 22 prefectures. The coastal enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla in addition to the islands of Penon de Velez de la Gomera, Penon de Alhucemas, and Islas Chafarinas are under Spanish sovereignty.

The capital of Morocco is Rabat.

Western Sahara, a former Spanish province, was partitioned by Morocco and Mauritania in 1976. In 1979, Mauritania withdrew from the territory and Morocco asserted control of the entire area. A liberation movement, Frente Polisario, continues to claim the territory. This movement, which consists of Saharawi guerrillas, has renamed the area the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic. A United Nations-administered cease-fire has been in effect since 1991. The capital of the territory is El-Aaiun. The population is Arabic-speaking.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; March 3, Feast of the Throne (Coronation Day); May 1, Labor Day; May 23, Enthronement of the Crown Prince; Aug. 14, Oued Eddahab; Nov. 6, Al Massirat Al Khadra (Green March Day); and Nov. 18, Independence Day.

The following Islamic holidays, the dates of which vary from year to year and are subject to the appearance of the moon, are observed: Mouloud (Prophet's Birthday); Beginning and End of Ramadan; Idul Adha; Eid El Kebir; Hejira; (Moslem New Year); and Achoura.

Industries

Although Morocco is primarily agricultural, the major industries include phosphate mining, food processing, the manufacture of leather goods, textiles, construction, and tourism.

Languages

The official language is Arabic. Several Berber dialects are also spoken, particularly in the mountainous regions.

French and Spanish are widely used in the urban areas.

Signals

The following storm signals may be displayed in Moroccan ports:

Day signal	Night signal	Meaning
Black ball	Red light	Bad weather probable

Day signal	Night signal	Meaning
Two black balls, vertically disposed	Two red lights, vertically disposed	Violent gale probable
Black cylinder	No signal	Wind expected to veer
Two black cylinders, vertically disposed	No signal	Wind expected to back
One black ball over one black triangle, point down	Three green lights, vertically disposed	Dangerous swell, with height greater than 4m, is expected
One black ball over two black triangles, points down, vertically disposed	One green light, one red light, one green light, vertically disposed	Very dangerous swell expected

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ALPHA (-1).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 2 Avenue de Marrakech, Rabat. The mailing address is PSC 74, Box 003, APO AE 09718.

A Consulate General is situated at Casablanca.